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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,033	12/28/2000	John M. Eby	3063.0396-04	5788

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EXAMINER

SHEWAREGED, BETELHEM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1774

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DATE MAILED: 06/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,033

Applicant(s)

EBY ET AL.

Examiner

Betelhem Shewareged

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-36, 39 and 40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 15.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response filed on 6/12/2003 has been fully considered.
2. Claims 21-40 are pending.
3. The finality of the previous Office Action has been withdrawn in view of Applicant's comment; however, upon further consideration the following Final Office Action is provided. The Examiner would like to inform Applicant that there was a typographical error in the previous final Office Action. The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection should be applied to **only** claims 37 and 38.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidle et al. (US 4,273,819).

Schmidle discloses a floor covering having a backing sheet, foamable base having a chemically embossed portion, a layer having a printing ink composition, a wear layer having a mechanically embossed portion and a portion that has not been mechanically embossed, and a paper top layer in the order thereof (col. 13 and 14). The chemical embossed depth is greater than the mechanical embossed depth (see Fig. 1 and 2). The chemically embossed portion is free from mechanical embossment (see Fig. 1 and 2). The wear layer comprises polyvinyl chloride, and is free from compounds that would lead to chemical embossing (col. 6, line 25). The claimed topcoat is equivalent to the paper top layer, the claimed strengthening layer is

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equivalent to the backing sheet, and the claimed design layer is equivalent to the layer having the printing ink composition. Portions of the layer having the printing ink composition comprise no retarders. The printing ink composition is used for making the chemical embossment, in which portions of the ink composition contain retarder and other portions of the ink composition contain no retarders in order to provide the chemical embossment effect.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant disagrees with the above rejection. Applicant's argument is based on that Schmidle does not teach a product on which mechanical embossing is performed on a cured wear layer or after chemical embossing. This argument is not persuasive for the following reason. The Examiner agrees that Schmidle does not teach a product on which mechanical embossing is performed on a cured wear layer or after chemical embossing, however, claims 37 and 38 do not expressly recite a product on which mechanical embossing is performed on a cured wear layer or after chemical embossing. Therefore, claims 37 and 38 stand rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 21-36, 39 and 40 are allowed. Schmidle neither teaches nor suggest a product on which mechanical embossing is performed on a cured wear layer or after chemical embossing.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Betelhem Shewareged whose telephone number is 703-305-0389. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. 7:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia H Kelly can be reached on 703-308-0449. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-5408 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

CYNTHIA H. KELLY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

BS B.S.
June 20, 2003.

